

Somalia announces date for elections

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia will hold multi-party elections next February, in line with a pledge by President Mohamed Siad Barre last year to carry out political reforms, Mogadishu Radio said Monday. The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said a cabinet meeting last Thursday decided to hold a referendum on a new constitution next Oct. 31. This would be followed by parliamentary and local elections involving different political parties on Feb. 1, 1991, the radio said. Siad Barre, in power since a coup in 1969, announced last year he would legalize opposition parties and hold free elections. But until Monday's announcement, the constitution had not been amended to change the single party system, and no date had been fixed for a poll. The radio said the cabinet meeting last Thursday endorsed the "implementation of the democratization of the country's political system."

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King cables sympathy to Aquino

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Philippine President Corazon Aquino condoling her over the death and injury of over 70 people in an earthquake which hit the Philippines. King Hussein voiced his deep sorrow over the tragic event (see page 8).

Indian crisis ends

NEW DELHI (R) — The son of Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal agreed Monday to quit as chief minister of northern Haryana state, defusing a crisis in the Indian government. But Om Prakash Chautala, the eldest son of 75-year-old peasant leader Devi Lal, will keep his post as general secretary of the ruling Janata Dal party president S.R. Bommai told reporters after a day of hectic meetings (see page 8).

Iraqi parliament discusses constitution

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's parliament Monday began debating a draft constitution that would legalise more political parties and extend press freedom. The Iraqi News Agency quoted Parliament Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh as saying the draft aimed to "organise the life of the Iraqis on a clear democratic basis." The document was drawn up by the Revolutionary Command Council led by President Saddam Hussein and by leaders of the ruling Baath Party.

Egypt says arson suspect deranged

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian painter accused of setting fire to a Red Sea hotel and killing two European tourists is deranged, an Egyptian official said Monday. Preliminary investigations showed the man was not acting on behalf of any organisation trying to harm Egypt's tourist industry or security, Assistant Interior Minister General Fahredin Khaled told Egypt's Middle East News Agency. Khaled said the 25-year-old painter "acted out of madness." Security sources Sunday said the man, from Dikiria in the Nile governorate of Daqahliya, had been disgusted at what he considered the obscene behaviour and skimpy dress of foreigners.

Iran paper criticises West

TEHRAN (R) — The West's failure to press for the release of Iranians missing in Lebanon and Arabs jailed by Israel will stonewall efforts by Tehran and Damascus to win the freedom of Western hostages in Lebanon, an Iranian newspaper said Monday. The hardline Kayhan International said reports first issued by Iran's official news agency IRNA nine days ago that a Western captive would soon be freed showed that Iran seriously wanted to end the hostage problem. But, the English-language paper said, the West had done nothing to reciprocate Iran's goodwill since two American hostages were freed by their Lebanese captors in April. "The hostage problem is a two-way street," it said, adding that if Washington and London continued their present policy they "will eventually stagnate the joint efforts of Tehran and Damascus for release of the rest of the Western hostages, especially those of British and American nationalities."

Arab envoy begins talks in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim began talks with Lebanese leaders in Beirut Monday in a renewed attempt to end the country's 15-year civil war. Official sources said Ibrahim, who arrived from Saudi Arabia in a private plane, met President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Salim Hoss and House Speaker Hussein Hussein in west Beirut. He then crossed the green line dividing the Lebanese capital and conferred with General Michel Aoun at his headquarters in the suburb of Baabda.

Export/import policy and investment drive bearing economic fruits, premier says

U.S. still holds key to peace — Badran

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The American administration continues to uphold certain principles which Jordan considers positive and this prompts the Kingdom to carefully watch the game of tug-of-war between Washington and Israel, Prime Minister Mudar Badran was quoted as saying in a newspaper interview published Monday.

Contacts made by His Majesty King Hussein and President George Bush revealed that the United States is still keen on achieving a just solution and upholds the non-admissibility of acquiring other people's lands by force, the prime minister said in an interview with the Al Siyassah newspaper of Kuwait.

"However, Jordan considers the Palestine issue as its main concern and strives to help the Palestinians regain their legitimate rights in their homeland, Badran said.

For the time being, he said, Jordan can only rely on its solidarity with the rest of the Arab World and seek help from the European nations to find a solution to the problem through an international peace conference.

However, Jordan will not remain idle if attacked and the Kingdom can never fall an easy prey to the Israeli conspiracies, he warned. "Jordan has all the right to seek training for its armed forces in conjunction with Iraq unhampered by reports in the Western press because we are well aware of our own national interests," Badran added.

"Jordan, which guards the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy, deserves support and assistance from its Arab sister states to enhance its steadfastness and remain a staunch fortress in the face of aggression," Badran said.

"This country," he said, "has been facing conspiracies and pressures over the past five decades but it will maintain its steadfastness with all its might, denying the invaders the fulfilment of their dream of creating what is called 'greater Israel'."

Turning to domestic issues, the prime minister said the Kingdom is maintaining a policy of increasing exports and minimising imports. In the first five months of 1990 the Kingdom succeeded in increasing its

exports by 36 per cent and keeping down imports at the rate of three per cent, he said.

But he added, Jordan is committed to strengthen its armed forces and to honour its financial commitments and pay its foreign debts. "To achieve this, Jordan is moving closer to its sister Arab states militarily, economically, socially, culturally and politically. This policy has helped Jordan to stabilise the dinar thanks to financial assistance from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates and also thanks to Jordanian expatriates who have started to transfer funds to Jordan in hard currency and in additional amounts."

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(Continued on page 3)

Jordan seeks new sources of finance for Al Wahdah Dam

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is now seeking to secure financing for construction of the Al Wahdah Dam on the Yarmouk River near the Syrian border but negotiations are still facing difficulties, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf.

The designs for the dam are ready and the construction of a diversion tunnel is complete but nothing can be done until funds are forthcoming, the minister said in a television interview broadcast Sunday evening.

He said potential financiers were demanding environmental studies and insisting on discussing the question of water-sharing, thus rendering the negotiations difficult, and rather complicated. Jordan is therefore looking for new sources to finance the construction of the dam and hopes to get the funds from Arab and Islamic organisations, Khalaf added.

(Continued on page 2)

Assad signals flexibility

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Syria's leader Hafez Al Assad, one of the Arab World's elder statesmen, has softened his image as a hardliner during his first visit to Egypt in 17 years.

Before leaving for home on Monday from Sharm Al Sheikh on the southern tip of Egypt's Sinai peninsula where battles raged between Israeli and Arab armies more than two decades

ago, Assad said there was a need for new peace moves in the Middle East.

In reply to reporters' questions Sunday over his readiness to participate in the peace process, Assad seemed to signal a new flexibility on the part of Damascus.

"We are ready," he said, "but this depends on other circumstances."

He was apparently referring to the formation of the most right-wing government in the Jewish state's history.

"We have been calling for peace for a long time," Assad told reporters. "We are still holding to our positions and want a just and comprehensive peace."

The declaration states the right of the Ukraine to have its own armed forces, internal forces and security service... to become in the future a neutral state not participating in military blocs," TASS quoted the document as saying.

The Ukraine is the latest in a series of republics to adopt sovereignty declarations, apparently in preparations for Kremlin talks on a new treaty to restructure the union of the 15 Soviet socialist republics which gives the Soviet Union its formal name.

In addition to the Russian federation, led by radical President Boris Yeltsin who quit the Communist Party last week, and the three Baltic states — Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia — which want to leave the union altogether, Moldavia and Uzbekistan have previously approved sovereignty declarations.

But the Ukrainian resolution, in raising the possibility of separate armed forces and steps to neutrality, appeared to go further than all but the Baltic declarations.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, who also faces separatist violence in the southern republic of Armenia, told his Russian leaders last month he planned a new treaty which would allow them to name their own terms for membership of the union.

Kohl said a united Germany and the Soviet Union would sign a comprehensive treaty that will govern all aspects of their bilateral relations.

For decades, the German threat was a favourite subject of Soviet propaganda, war movies are still popular on Soviet television, this weekend prime-time television featured two films on the Nazi SS forces.

Gorbachev and Kohl were in southern Russia after a visit Sunday to Gorbachev's home region, Stavropol.

Soviet soldiers now stationed in

East Germany will be withdrawn in three-four years, and during the same period of time, the size of the German army will be brought down to 370,000 soldiers, the two leaders said.

The Soviets now have about 380,000 troops in East Germany. The combined strength of the East and West German armed forces is now about 600,000, with West Germany providing 480,000 men.

The press conference, broadcast on German and Soviet television, was held at the end of Kohl's two-day visit to the Soviet Union. The news conference was held in Zheleznovodsk, in southern Russia.

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Ukraine declares sovereignty

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Ukraine declared sovereignty Monday, saying it planned to become a neutral state with the right to raise its own army and introduce a separate currency.

The Ukraine is the second largest of the Soviet Union's 15 constituent republics after the Russian Federation.

It parliament passed a declaration on sovereignty by 355 votes to four, the official TASS news agency reported, following similar moves by the federation and other republics.

The declaration said Ukrainian law took precedence over Soviet legislation.

But TASS said a majority of deputies argued that the Ukraine, along with the Russian Federation — the powerhouse of the Soviet economy — should not leave the Soviet Union.

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Arabs to boycott companies helping Jewish immigration

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab states have decided to boycott companies and other institutions which help Jews migrate to Israel.

Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis said in a statement Monday the influx of Jews posed "a very grave threat to national security, to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and to peace efforts."

"The ministers decided in... take decisive measures on all levels towards the agencies, institutions and authorities which provide facilities for Jewish immigration, especially transport and financial assistance," it said.

"They also entrusted the (Damascus-based Arab) Boycott Office with the task of applying boycott laws to these agencies, institutions and authorities," it added.

More than 50,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel this year. The

total is expected to reach well over 100,000 by the end of the year.

Arab diplomats said the boycott was directed at commercial companies and non-governmental institutions, not at states which allow migrating Jews to cross their territory.

The ministers, who held a two-day emergency meeting at the request of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said their countries were willing to pay the expenses of Jews who wished to return to Arab countries they left years ago.

Diplomats said Egypt resisted this proposal, arguing that it was already overcrowded and did not need new citizens.

The ministers said they stood behind the PLO position on U.S. conditions for resuming the PLO-American dialogue.

Arab states would try to persuade Washington to resume the dialogue with the PLO "on new foundations

which guarantee that it deals with the essential issues and serves the peace process," the statement said.

The Arab states deplored alleged U.S. threats to use force against Libya and the extension by the U.S. administration of economic boycott measures against Tripoli, it added.

Washington imposed the boycott in 1986 on the grounds that Libya had abetted acts of violence by Middle East extremists and the measures were renewed for six months of July 13.

PLO Ambassador to Tunisia Hakim Balwi told reporters the Arabs would contact governments which allow Soviet Jews to cross their territory and put the Arab point of view to them.

They would ask countries like Canada, Australia and Argentina to take in more Soviet Jews so that fewer of them felt they had to migrate to Israel, he added.

Bank hold-up suspects arrested; money recovered

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Monday arrested two suspects in a daylight hold-up at a bank in the Marka area of the capital and recovered the stolen money, said to be around JD 10,000, the head of Amman police said.

The two suspects — one a Spanish national and the other a Spanish citizen of Jordanian origin — were nabbed in less than 24 hours after the robbery at the Grindlays Bank branch at Marka, Brigadier Ghaleb Al Zoubi said.

According to a police reconstruction of the event, the hold-up was carried out around noon when a man armed with a gun rushed into the bank, pointed the weapon at a bank official with a death threat unless money was handed over in a bag.

None of the other employees dared to move during the hold-up, which took only a few minutes, according to police. The hold-up man, who was wearing dark glasses, then rushed outside with the cash in a bag and sped away in a waiting car driven by an accomplice, police said.

The stolen money included 6,492 Jordanian dinars, 395 sterling pound and 4,569 American dollars, police said.

Wave of Ethiopian Jews to Israel said suspended

TEL AVIV (R) — The secrecy-shrouded influx of Ethiopian Jews to Israel has come to an abrupt halt, an immigration official and community leaders said Monday.

They said some 11,000 black Jews had left war-torn areas of Ethiopia and were waiting in the capital, Addis Ababa, for permits to leave. Living conditions were precarious and disease was rampant.

"In the last three weeks no Jews have arrived from Ethiopia," Rahamim Elazar, secretary of Israel's Ethiopian organization, told Reuters Monday.

"We are in a state of shock. The fact is nobody is coming. All this hope is shattered," Elazar said, adding that the community would demonstrate for government action.

Israeli military censors made delegations from this report.

Israeli foreign ministry officials said immigration was continuing normally.

"Israel does not have a policy to slow down intentionally the immigration of Ethiopian Jews. Immigration is continuing normally," spokesman Moti Amitai told Reuters.

But Elazar and an Israeli immigration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said until the last month black Jews had been arriving over the past months under a "family reunification" agreement.

The programme was suspended by Ethiopian

President Mengistu Haile Mariam whose leadership is threatened by advancing rebels, they said. Israel reestablished ties with Ethiopia last October after a 16-year break.

Foreign press reports said Ethiopia was seeking to barter Jews for Israeli weapons. They said Mengistu had visited Israel on his quest for aid two weeks ago but Israeli officials denied the visit ever occurred.

A Sunday report in the New York Times said Ethiopia and Israel agreed several weeks ago to suspend exit permits. It quoted Israeli ambassador to Ethiopia, Meir Joffe, as saying Israel wished to scrutinize application after it had realized not all applicants were Jewish.

"There are avoid bureaucratic hardships, people who have no identity, no listing. They come from areas that are hundreds of kilometres away from Addis Ababa," Reuven Merhav, director of the foreign ministry, told army radio.

"The Ethiopians don't want people to leave them at all. That has always been their policy. They believe... their people must stay there... and in this framework we must see it," he said.

Some 20,000 Ethiopian Jews have arrived in Israel since 1984 when it launched an operation to bring the black Jews to the Jewish state. Some 16,000 are still in Ethiopia.

Elazar said the board of the Ethiopian organization had requested a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir but had not received a reply.

16 killed in Lebanon battles

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Fires raged out of control and scores of families fled their homes when rival Shi'ite Muslim militias battled for a strategic village in South Lebanon Monday, security sources said.

At least 16 people were killed and 50 wounded in close-quarter fighting between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and Syrian-backed Amal for the village of Jarjouh. Casualties were expected to rise.

"Shells continue to fall at a rate of one every five seconds and a huge black cloud is hanging above Jarjouh," said an eyewitness in a nearby village.

The situation inside Jarjouh is still not clear but the number of casualties is high and devastation seems extensive.

He said an intense bombardment stopped ambulances entering the village and injured were lying unattended in the streets. Artillery and rocket fire spilled

over to 10 other villages in the mountainous Iqlim Al Toufah region, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, scene of savage battles between the factions in December. Hundreds of people sheltered in fortified bunkers.

Security sources said four of the dead were from Hezbollah and four from Amal. Hospitals in the south appealed for blood.

Each side accused the other of starting the fighting which began soon after dawn and continued unabated for eight hours.

Amal's leadership confirmed the attack in a statement. It said its fighters "crushed the attackers who belonged to the party of Satan."

It admitted to 20 Amal militiamen wounded.

Hezbollah accused Amal earlier of shelling its positions in Jabal Sufi, Mita and Lirzeh with artillery and rockets.

Ambulances raced in and out the Iqlim, ferrying victims to hos-

pitals in Sidon. The mountainous region overlooks Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, from the southeast.

Also in South Lebanon, militiamen of the Nasserite organisation clashed with the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Kfar Falou to the east of Sidon.

Hezbollah — trained, financed and equipped by Tehran — calls for jihad (holy war) to liberate Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south. The movement wants to make Lebanon an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

The more secur Amal wants to reform the country's Christian-dominated political system to give the Muslim majority an equal share of power.

It says liberation of the south should be achieved through a joint resistance movement and through working to implement U.N. resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal.

Missing plane remains a mystery for Israelis

AMMAN (I.T.) — Investigations have provided no clues to the disappearance of an Israeli reconnaissance plane which went missing with its pilot last Thursday, and Israeli armed forces commanders remained puzzled over the affair, according to a report in the Jerusalem Post Monday.

A second possibility is that the pilot committed suicide or had an accident and was killed. He took off at night when the sea and the sky appear black and thus merge. Such an accident is especially likely if he flew at a low altitude. Under such circumstances a pilot may lose faith in the equipment which monitors the horizon, think he knows better, and make a nose dive.

In such circumstances some debris may float, but an informed source said that it may take until some of the plane's pieces rust and break away. Airplanes, helicopters, and navy vessels searched the seas looking for remnants of the aircraft. The navy used its sonar, but to no avail. On Friday and Saturday, planes and helicopters took aerial photographs of Israel, trying to find the debris. On the ground, troops searched wadis and other hidden spots.

An air force team, headed by a reserve brigadier-general, is looking into the matter.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Korean minister ends Iran

NICOSIA (R) — North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam left Tehran Monday after holding talks with Iranian military and political officials, Iran's IRNA news agency said. Kim, whose country was one of Iran's major suppliers of weapons during its eight-year war with Iraq, described his talks in Tehran as important and useful, IRNA said. "In the course of the imposed war your leader and country sincerely cooperated with us," IRNA quoted President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as telling Kim Saturday. "We will never forget this friendship." IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said the minister held separate meeting with Revolutionary Guard commander Mohsen Rezaei and Akbar Toraki, the defence and armed forces logistics minister, during his three-day visit. It gave no details of the talks. Western military analysts said Iran facing a Western arms embargo, bought large quantities of weapons including surface-to-surface missiles from North Korea during the Gulf war which was halted by a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati described links between Iran and North Korea — two of the world's most diplomatically isolated countries — as flourishing and said Iran welcomed a North Korean proposal to increase trade, IRNA said. In May Iran and North Korea signed a \$600-million trade agreement for 1990.

AIDS virus carriers increase in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (AP) — The number of AIDS carriers in Bahrain has more than doubled in a year to 100, the English-language Gulf Daily news reported. The newspaper said that 10 of the carriers of the HIV, human immunodeficiency virus, were expatriates who included nationals of Ethiopia, Denmark, the Seychelles, India and Syria. These were deported, it said. The majority of Bahrainis who are infected with the AIDS virus are drug addicts who contracted the disease by sharing needles, said the paper quoting unnamed informed sources. "A year ago, 40 people on the island had been found to be HIV positive," the paper said. AIDS is an affliction in which a virus attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to a wide variety of infections and cancers. The fatal disease is often transmitted through sexual contacts, blood transfusions and sharing of contaminated needles by drug abusers.

The visit was widely suspected in Israel to have been coordinated with the United States, which has been frustrated by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in trying to convene Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Washington has hinted it might take a new direction in peace efforts, raising Israeli fears it would support the EC proposal for an international conference on the Middle East.

The EC has been more critical of Israel than the United States, and gives greater priority to a role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The European are not hiding their opinion that Israel must recognise the PLO, agree to an international conference and in the end also to a Palestinian state," Yediot Achronot said.

Israel adamantly opposes those positions.

Levy had been expected to face EC foreign ministers in Rome this month but had to cancel because of a slight heart attack.

A projected meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Paris about the same time was also postponed and is now expected to take place in Washington early in August.

Israeli panel okays new housing plan

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's ministerial immigration committee has approved an emergency plan to house Soviet immigrants in hotels, youth hostels and sanatoriums, officials said.

"The committee's chairman and housing minister, Ariel Sharon, said the new plan comes to ease the current housing crisis in Israel.

"I brought this proposal... in order to block the skyrocketing housing prices, and to stop the young couples, Israelis, from being thrown out of the apartments they live in," Sharon said on Israel Army radio last Sunday.

Rents have doubled and even tripled throughout Israel with the arrival of Soviet immigrant wave, which has totalled more than 63,000 since 1989. It is expected to reach a total of 150,000 this year.

Many Israelis have been forced out of their rented homes by the inflated housing prices, and some have taken to living in tents so as to enforce demands for housing solutions.

According to government figures, the country's 20,000 available rental apartments will be filled up by the end of September.

The government has approved an emergency plan to import 3,000 prefabricated houses.

It also plans 48,000 new housing units in 1990 and expects to break ground for 16,000 units within the next weeks. But in the interim period between October 1990 and December 1991, when the first new apartments become available, it will need some 100,000 housing solutions.

This programme was devised by Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz in order to avoid placing immigrants at absorption centres, where many were stuck for years without housing solutions in sight, and in order to force immigrants to settle in cheap homes located in remote areas in Israel.

Jaffa Arabs protest plan to bring in Soviets

AREH DERTI, Lahat, and Eitan Sulami, the head of Amidar, the government public housing company.

"We are not against the settling of immigrants in Jaffa," said Zevdeh, headmaster of the Amal school in Jaffa, "but we don't want it to be at the expense of the Arab and Jewish residents of the city." Zevdeh pointed out that Jewish residents make up 70 per cent of Jaffa's population.

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— The Jerusalem Post

Arabs in Jaffa are launching protests to demand the ouster of Mayor Shlomo Lahat, following the revelation that Lahat plans to populate Jaffa with young Jewish couples and new immigrants from the Soviet Union.

In a meeting called Friday by public officials, several Arab organisations — including the Islamic Council, the Orthodox Association, and the Association for Jaffa Arabs — decided to create an umbrella organisation, called the Joint Public Council for the Advancement of the Arab Community in Jaffa.

Lahat's plan, which he presented to Ariel Sharon last week, includes the construction of 5,000 apartments, 500 of them in the near future, in rehabilitated areas of Jaffa.

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Meeting reviews Balqa agricultural development

SALT (J.T.) — Two factors persistently impede agricultural development in the Balqa region, which has a vast agricultural potential and is considered one of the important components of the national economy, said Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat at a symposium held in Salt.

"These factors are represented in the total dependence on foreign labour and the soaring prices of agricultural input, which tend to limit the size of crops," he said.

"Farmers in the Balqa Governorate should pay more attention to dairy processing plants,

sheep and bee farms and to processing olives and canning vegetables and fruit for which there is always a lucrative market," said the minister, who was addressing an audience gathered at the invitation of the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) in Salt.

According to statistics, the Balqa Governorate owns 400,000 dunums of land of which 142,000 dunums are irrigated by canals and 10,000 are planted with fruit trees. It also has 217,000 dunums of pasture lands for the livestock wealth, the minister pointed out.

He said there was need for expanding existing projects and investments in new schemes designed to absorb job seekers and stimulate the farming sector in the governorate.

Amr Muasher from the SDC

Jordan, Syria open meeting on housing and construction

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee on housing, public works and reconstruction opened a four-day meeting here Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation in housing and construction.

The committee, set up by the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee which will meet in Damascus later this month, is expected to discuss exchanges of information and expertise, training programmes, raising the standard of efficiency of construction work, and dealing with housing issues.

It will also tackle employment of locally produced building materials and emigration of workers from rural to urban regions in the

two countries.

Housing Corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat opened the committee meeting with a speech. He presented a working paper projecting Jordan's views with regard to these issues and pointing out prospects for bilateral cooperation in engineering consultancy firms, investments, legislations concerning construction operations and housing estates, according to Housing Corporation sources.

The four-day meeting will discuss encouraging joint ventures in construction fields and the removal of obstacles that impede the employment of workers from both countries.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of congratulations to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the occasion of Iraq's national day. The King wished the Iraqi president good health and happiness and the Iraqi people further progress and prosperity.

Decree endorses amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday endorsing an amendment to the conscription law. The amendment specifies that Jordanian expatriates, not working for official institutions, and their sons are exempted from compulsory military service in return for a payment of an amount to be decided by the council of ministers.

Communiqué defines 1991 budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday issued a communiqué by which he defined the basis for preparing the general budget, the financing table in government offices and the institutions' budgets for the coming financial year, 1991.

Senate called to meet Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi decided Monday to call the House for a meeting next Thursday at 10:30 a.m. The House is expected to refer several draft resolutions to the concerned committees.

House discusses NMI

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Legal Committee held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Hussein Mjalli. The committee continued discussion of a resolution on the annulment of the National Medical Institution (NMI). The committee is expected to complete discussion by the end of this week.

ACC officials meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretaries-general of the ministries of economy, trade and supply in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states will hold a meeting Tuesday in Amman in preparation for the ACC ministers of economy, trade and supply third meetings which will start here Wednesday. The secretaries-general will discuss several issues concerning following up the resolutions of the second ministerial meeting which was held in Baghdad last year and the economic policies adopted in the ACC member states.

Mrs. Ben Shaker honoured

ZARQA (Petra) — Chairwoman of the Soldier Welfare Society (SWS) Nawzad Shaker, wife of the Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, was presented with a shield in appreciation of her efforts and contribution to the voluntary work in Jordan. The honouring ceremony took place at Zarqa Chamber of Commerce, in the presence of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Upper House of Parliament member Ibrahim Taqieddin, who is also president of Zarqa Chamber of Commerce. The shield was presented to Mrs. Shaker by Taqieddin.

Painting exhibition opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A painting exhibition was opened Monday at the Jordan Plastic Art Association gallery by Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki who deputised for Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The exhibition, which is expected to last for two weeks, portrays paintings representing various plastic art schools in Iraq. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabriti, the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan and several artists.

Jordanians reluctant to do manual work — Obeidat

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While Jordanians are complaining about the lack of job opportunities in the Kingdom and are calling on parliamentarians and government officials to help solve the growing unemployment problem some officials say that the "unwillingness" of many Jordanians to be technical handymen, agricultural workers and enter professions such as nursing or industrial work is the real cause of unemployment and "not the lack of jobs available in the Kingdom," Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat said.

"The government has been providing assistance to the private sector by ensuring stability and security in the country and by stabilising the local currency — all important contributions to successful enterprises," said Muasher.

He said that incentives had been introduced to encourage investment in these fields and to attract capital.

Samia Qamh, chairman of the board of directors of Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Jordanian workforce is 650,000 strong and that Jordanian job seekers will probably reach 1.03 million by the year 2,000, according to studies and statistics.

He said that 150,000 Jordanians in need of employment can easily take the place of the 200,000 non-Jordanians now being employed in various economic sectors.

Mayors, heads of local village councils, directors of departments and organisations and public figures were present at the one-day symposium.

Amr Muasher from the SDC

local and Arab labour markets," said Obeidat.

Most young people don't appear to find out what kind of job opportunities exist in Jordan or in other Arab countries before they embark on getting their higher education, the minister said.

"If they did and acted or studied in accordance to what the job market demands they would not be out of a job after they graduate," he added.

There are 45,000 applications for government jobs in mostly clerical areas, according to Obeidat. Out of these applicants twenty-three per cent are university graduates, sixty-five per cent have finished a two-year training college and ten per cent have a tawjih certificate. According to the Ministry of Labour sixty-eight per cent of the applicants are female and thirty-two per cent are male.

Obeidat pointed out that Jordan is in need of technical education starting at a high school level. "If we are to seriously address the problems of the future we have to begin with reforming some of the educational programmes," he said.

While some technical education already exists in Jordan many educationists believe that the education system in Jordan does not prepare students for the job market sufficiently.

"The Arab World is in desperate need of male and female nurses," said Obeidat.

"This could be an area where Jordan could become self sufficient and even export its expertise, instead Jordanians study professions for which markets no longer exist within Jordan or the Arab countries," the minister said.

He pointed out that in some sectors Jordanians had made an effort to adapt themselves to the lack of job opportunities and taken jobs previously held by foreigners. Today only eight per cent of the hosts and hostesses which serve on the national airline Royal Jordanian are non-Jordanians, according to Obeidat.

He said that the public sector had tried to make lucrative offers to Jordanians to work in urban centres, other than Amman, but had not received a substantial response.

"For every Jordanian who is willing to take the job of any foreign worker in the Kingdom we have one less person unemployed, one less foreign worker and one less work permit to pay for," Obeidat said. "For every student who bothers to ask what areas he should study vis-a-vis the job market chances are he will come back to find a job waiting for him and not be another unsatisfied youth sitting at home," he added.



King visits armoured unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday watched military exercises by formations of the Third Royal Armoured Division and was briefed on the training programmes by senior army officers. The exercises included field operations and target shooting with live ammunition using various types of weapons. Fighter planes and helicopters launched raids on specified targets using live ammunition while field guns and tanks

were used in support of the attacking units. The King later met with the troops' commanders and commended their efforts, congratulating them on the troops' high standard of efficiency in performance. Senior army officers from Jordan and a number of Arab countries watched the exercise which was part of the Armed Forces annual training programme.

Haj transport company denies ministry charges

By Islam Qadami
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A National company charged with undertaking the transportation and accommodation of Jordanian pilgrims in Mecca and Medina during the past pilgrimage season denied that it shirked responsibility and undermined arrangements taken by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Abdullah Abu Khalaf, chairman of the company's board, said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs lacks solid evidence about irresponsible action and failures on the part of the company in carrying out its task.

"The company succeeded in transporting all the pilgrims to Mecca in 324 buses in just three days," Abu Khalaf pointed out.

No incidents or accidents occurred during the transportation and speedy efforts were made to put up the pilgrims in their homes in the Holy City in cooperation with the Saudi authorities," he added.

He said that despite some

obstacles at the start of the pilgrimage season the company considered the whole operation as a total success, achieved through close cooperation with the official Jordanian mission in charge of the pilgrims.

Last week Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir accused the company of intentionally disregarding its duties and responsibilities with the purpose of undermining the ministry's arrangements.

"Those responsible for the many failures and poor travel facilities for the pilgrims will be referred to court for trial," the minister had said.

Faqir accused the company's board of intending to make the pilgrimage seasons a failure for Jordan and said that the ministry had proof as to those responsible for the failure.

A member of the company's board, Abdullah Abul Raghib, countered the minister's accusation that the 22 buses the company used were not fit for the trip by saying that the company had hired substitute buses from Saudi Arabia once it found that 22 vehicles were not fully equipped for the trip.

He said that repair was done in Saudi Arabia and the convoy of Jordanian and rented Saudi buses made the trip safely back to Amman.

Another board member, Mohamad Jaar, admitted that there were failures in implementing the cleanliness and maintenance work in some of the buildings rented for the benefit of the pilgrims, but said that this problem was immediately resolved despite the fact that pilgrims were behind large quantities of waste after eating food.

Two other board members responded to the minister's accusation by saying that in any pilgrimage season some problems are bound to crop up, despite ample arrangements and preparations and that they believed certain elements were behind distorting the whole situation, prompting angry reaction from the Ministry of Awqaf.

Badran holds talks with Pakistani Islamic judge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office here Monday Sheik Gul Mohammad Khan, head of the Islamic court in Pakistan and discussed with him Jordanian-Pakistani cooperation in Islamic judiciary system and Islamic jurisprudence.

The meeting was attended by Chief Islamic Justice Sheik Mohamad Mheilan.

Khan was earlier Monday received by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir with whom he discussed cooperation and coordination between Jordan and Pakistan in religious affairs and occupied territories.

He also presented Khan with a token gift and received from him a collection of Islamic books published in Pakistan.

The Pakistani guest visited the King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Mosque at Abdali where he watched a documentary film on Israel's encroachments on the holy places and its burning of Al Aqsa mosque in 1968.

Artefacts discovery points to ancient life in South Shuneh

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of American professors working together with the Department of Antiquities this week completed the second stage of archaeological excavations which revealed that the Tal Nimirin (South Shuneh) in the Jordan Valley region, revealing artefacts that point to an advanced agricultural society in the area ranging from the second century B.C. until the Ottoman Empire in the modern age.

According to Dr. Kheir Yassin from the University of Jordan who took part in the excavations, professors from the American

states between B.C. 1550 and 1000. "It is hoped that the ongoing studies and continuing excavations will reveal the causes behind this development and the historical gap in Tal Nimirin's history," said Yassin.

"Huge amounts of linseed and traces of irrigation canals indicate that the area witnessed developed standards of agriculture during different periods of history," Yassin added.

He said that artefacts indicated that the Islamic era was characterised by agricultural development

and the remains of grain silos containing wheat and barley stand out as a clear witness of this type of civilisation in the Jordan Valley.

Sugar cane was also known to have been planted on an industrial scale in the Jordan Valley during the Ayyubid and Mamluk eras when the Tal Nimirin came to be called Shuneh (the Arabic term for granary).

The town of Shuneh still stands in the Jordan Valley not far off from the King Hussein bridge across the river Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibitions of ceramics, paintings by Gastone Priamo at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Radwa and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Jordan — Mysteries and Shadows" by Omani student Mohammad Bin Mahdi Bin Jawad at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by deaf artist Khaled Mahmoud Attiyeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
- ★ Lecture by Ahmad Obeidat on the national charter at the Orthodox Club — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture on "Archaeology and Economy in Jordan" by Ramzi Khouri at the United Kingdom Alumni Society Club (UKAS), Jabal Luweileh — 8:15 p.m.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by the Syrian troupe Umayyah at the South Theatre — 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yugoslav folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Poets and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
- ★ Concert by the Royal Jordanian (RJ) folk troupe at Artemis Steps — 9:30 p.m.

Jordan, Egypt sign trade protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt Monday signed an agreement on exchanging equal shares of goods in the 1990-1991 period totalling \$60 million, and announced that the Egyptian Naser Export-Import Company and the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) will be authorised to implement the deal.

According to a statement issued after the signing of the agreement, Jordan will sell Egypt white cement, plain glass, solar heaters, equipment used in the drip irrigation system, knives, electric lifts, raw phosphate, chemical fertilisers and rock wool.

It will import Egyptian aluminium, formica, rice, peanuts, linen, onions, garlic, potatoes, nails, office equipment, and razor blades.

The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade by its Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran and Kamal Hilali, chairman of the Egyptian Naser Import and Export Company.

Al Wahdah

(Continued from page 1)

cubic metres.

At present the ministry is making plans for building 10 dams starting in 1991, the minister said. This four year project, together with the water to come from the Al Wahdah dam, will suffice Jordan's needs until the year 2,000.

The ministry could also look into the prospect of resorting to non-traditional sources to suffice these needs, like desalination of sea water and deep drilling which is costly and complicated.

The ministry of water and irrigation's secretary general has noted that the Amman area alone is in need of 12,000 cubic metres of drinking water per hour in the summer, and 9,000 cubic metres in winter.

Mutazz Bilbeisi said the shortage of water in the Kingdom was largely due to increased water consumption in the hot season, the growing population and the presence of visitors from the Gulf region.

According to Bilbeisi, Jordan is facing a dangerous water shortage for drinking and irrigation and the future remains grim unless new water resources are found.

"Jordan is facing a shortage of at least 50 million cubic metres of water annually and nearly a 10 per cent increase in water consumption due to the growing population."

He said that overpumping from artesian wells led to increased salinity, which makes water unfit to drink, and to closure of

Jordan Times

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Everyone has a stake

ON SUNDAY, officials reported the death of two people and the injury of 20 in road accidents in different parts of the country. The victims joined hundreds of others on the casualty list of the carnage on the roads in 1990. In 1989, traffic accidents claimed the lives of 345 people, almost one every day. The injured totalled 9,956. According to the Public Security Department (PSD), these figures put Jordan in the second place among nations with the highest number of casualties of road accidents. The PSD statistics show that road accidents are on the increase.

So, what makes Jordan so prone to traffic accidents of this magnitude and enormity? Officially the most often quoted reasons are speeding and reckless driving. Maybe so. But are there other reasons that can be cited? Any neutral observer of driving in Jordan would immediately notice two things: an apparent ignorance or negligence on the part of drivers and traffic police, of the rules of traffic and almost total disregard to the rights of other drivers. This is most evident at stop signs. Drivers do not observe them and traffic police seem to be perpetually oblivious to their meaning. People's ignorance or ignoring of traffic etiquette amounts to the most basic of rules: The right of way at intersections. Drivers' disrespect and disregard for fellow drivers and to pedestrians is appalling. One need not conduct a study or research on these two aspects of driving to conclude that they must be the most outstanding reasons for accidents. Drivers who use head lights at night and those who fail to signal when turning, either because of ignorance or disregard, are responsible for many traffic incidents. But the most dangerous of accidents are those made by drivers who overtake other vehicles and fail to calculate the proper distance from other traffic needed to safely clear that vehicle.

This of course is compounded by the poor quality of the roads, the lack or total absence of traffic signs and road markings, pedestrians recklessly or lazily crossing the roads, animals crossing the highways, and above all by traffic police failing to do their job.

To be able to reduce traffic fatalities in the Kingdom, drivers' competence, their knowledge of traffic rules and respect for other drivers' right of way must be addressed. This can be done by launching a comprehensive programme to first re-educate our traffic police on its duties and second to make the public more aware of its responsibilities and then by applying stringent but fair driving tests — not those taken today in which only physical strength in applying the brakes or shifting gears is tested, and in which illegal and misleading methods are used against the examinees. The government should take the lead in this endeavour since it issues driving licences, oversees adherence to traffic rules and controls the segments of the media most suitable for an awareness campaign. But our public should also do its utmost to help in this national effort. After all, it is our lives that are at stake here.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday indirectly criticised the Lower House of Parliament for rejecting the government's motion to scrap the Ministry of Higher Education following a lengthy debate on Saturday. The paper said that now parliament has taken its decision, both the government and the press can by no means reverse it, and should only respect the deputies' views. We realise that both parliament and the government seek to give universities in Jordan a greater measure of independence, regardless of the decision taken on Saturday; but we had wished that the legal and educational committees in parliament carried out full debates on this issue with the purpose of introducing amendments to the government's proposals, rather than rejecting the motion outright, said the paper. By rejecting the government proposal, parliament has not exercised its full right represented in discussing the question in full and submitting counter proposals or amendments, the paper added. By doing so, parliament has thus left this legislative action totally in the hands of the government which had sought assistance from the House to settle this issue, and had hoped that a parliament decision could help to preserve the universities' independence as desired by many parliament members, the paper noted. It expressed the view that the result of Saturday's session did not serve the government or parliament, nor did it do any favour to the universities themselves.

Al Dastour daily commented Monday on the extraordinary session of the Arab League in Tunis held at the foreign ministers level. It said that the meeting which began Sunday is expected by the Arab masses to come up with an effective reply to Washington's decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO and a joint Arab action in the face of Washington's attitude vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East. Upon taking its decision, Washington did not give any consideration to the Arab countries' views or their reactions, nor was Washington been interested at any time in what the Arabs think or demand for a just Middle East settlement, said the paper. It said all that Washington is interested in is to remain biased towards Israel at the expense of Arab national interests. Therefore, said the paper, we believe that the Arab foreign ministers will reach a consensus, reflecting the spirit of the Baghdad Arab Summit and projecting the Arab nation's readiness to take practical steps in dealing with the United States.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the Syrian-Egyptian summit meeting in Alexandria, and said that the Arabs demand a unified stand by all Arab countries, transcending side differences so that they can confront the new challenges. The Assad-Mubarak meetings offer a good chance for the achievement of such objectives and for paving the way for the presidents of Iraq and Syria to exchange visits so that they can reach the aspired reconciliation, said the paper.

American support shifts towards Palestinian rights

The following article is reprinted from the New York Times

By William E. Schmidt

SAGINAW, Mich. — Like many Americans, Donald Power long counted himself an admirer of Israel. A federal labour mediator who lives here in Saginaw, he was marvelled at the courage and spirit of the small nation, a fledgling democracy so imperiled yet determined to survive.

But in recent years, Power's regard for Israel has waned. He has come, increasingly, to see the Middle Eastern nation as arrogant and even oppressive in the way it has handled the protests by Palestinians on the West Bank and how it has dealt with its Arab neighbours.

"I don't think they deserve all the support and the aid we give them," said Power. "Maybe it's time to say, we're tired, we're poor, we have our own people without homes."

Power's concerns are not unusual; they are reflected in a New York Times/CBS News Poll taken last month and in discussions with Americans in many cities in recent weeks. And these soundings all show some erosion in Americans' regard for Israel, a keystone of the special relationship that country has enjoyed with Washington since its founding in 1948.

There is still an enduring core of support for Israel, especially when considered in relation to its Arab neighbours, but Americans no longer side strongly with Israel against the Palestinians within its borders.

The majority of Americans who say they favour sustained financial and military aid to Israel has been reduced, and a growing minority now advocates more sympathy for the concerns of Palestinians inside Israel.

Supporters of Israel in Congress and among Jewish organisations acknowledge that Israel's backing within the United States is not as deep as it once was, reflecting a tangle of factors, such as Israel's role in putting down protests on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, and the perception that Israel is no longer so strategically important, given the fading of the Soviet threat.

Foreign aid decisions by Congress do not always follow every twist in popular opinion, and influential pro-Israel lobbying groups have helped to shore up official support for Israel despite the changes in public mood.

The House of Representatives, for example, voted overwhelmingly last month to sustain aid to Israel at current levels, estimated to be nearly \$4 billion annually.

David A. Harris, the Direc-

tor of the Office of Government and International Affairs for the American Jewish Committee in Washington, said some of the slippage was, perhaps, predictable.

"There is a cause to be watchful," said Stanley B. Horowitz, President and Chief Professional Officer of the United Jewish Appeal. "But the values which we share with Israel are so strong, I am not deeply worried. Support for Israel will shoot up again."

According to the results of the Times/CBS News poll, conducted by telephone June 5 to 8 among 1,084 people, 61 per cent advocated sustaining or increasing levels of aid to Israel. The poll had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points.

In a Washington Post/ABC News poll in 1989, 72 per cent favoured keeping aid at or above the same level. This continuing, though diminished, majority support was reflected in the view of Elmer G. Daniels, a Jewish businessman interviewed in suburban Baltimore.

"I would do virtually anything to assist Israel," said Daniels. "It is the only democracy in the region, and the only country that has been, without equivocation, an ally of the U.S. representing our interests there."

But 47 per cent of those questioned in the Times/CBS News poll, say they now support giving the Palestinians a homeland in the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, a proposal which the Israeli government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes. In a 1988 Los Angeles Times poll, 40 per cent favoured a Palestinian homeland.

The slippage in U.S. opinion is even more dramatic when it comes to internal or domestic turmoil in Israel. In a 1988 Times/CBS News poll, when asked whether the United States should be more sympathetic to the concerns of Palestinians in Israel, the American public said no by a two-to-one ratio, but in last month's poll American public opinion was split.

When it comes to Israel's external security, however, Americans continue to favour

Israel over its Arab neighbours by a wide margin: 40 per cent in the latest poll say they are more in sympathy with Israel, while 19 per cent say they are more in sympathy with the Arab nations.

But even that is a reduced advantage compared with past surveys. The Roper organisation, asking the same question, showed as high as a five-to-one advantage for Israel in the 1970s.

Despite the growing willingness to show sympathy toward the Palestinians, however, many of those interviewed said they still harboured sharp suspicions, particularly about PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and some of the Arab leaders.

Gene Mossner, a lawyer in Saginaw, said he regarded the Israeli government as stubborn and intractable, but he did not trust the Palestinian leadership either. "My sympathy is toward the people, but I am not sure about Arafat or many of the others," he said. "There are no moderates on either side."

Rumbles of change in politicians' ears.

These shifts in public opinion have not gone unnoticed in Congress. Rep. Lee H. Hamilton of Indiana, the second-ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that while Americans still support a close relationship with Israel, "there is a more of a doubt, in some areas, a resentment, of our high levels of assistance of Israel."

Israel is the most obvious target of those broadly opposed to foreign aid, he said, because it receives more help than any other country.

"I don't think there is a seismic change," said Hamilton. "But none the less, there are clearly changes taking place both within the American Jewish community and the public in general."

In April, the Senate Republican leader, Bob Dole of Kansas, provoked a sharp debate when he said his colleagues should be willing to consider cuts in American aid to Israel.

Dole said at the time that some of his fellow senators are privately as critical of Israeli policy as he is. "I know people, and I know they won't say it out loud," he said. "But they'll grab you in the cloakroom and tell you, 'you're right. I can't say it because I'm running,' or 'when I've been here as long as you have, I'll be able to say it.'

In part, the volatility in American public opinion towards Israel reflects the more turbulent relations between the Israeli government and the Bush administration, which has taken a more adversarial role in trying to fashion a Middle East settlement.

But more and more, America's changing opinions about Israel are also being shaped by events far beyond Middle East.



For some, the end of the cold war and the fading of the Soviet threat has raised doubts about the need to subsidise Israel, and other foreign clients in the past.

There are those who argue that money ought to be spent inside the United States.

"You are asking a country that is broke right today, billions of dollars broke, to bail out these foreign governments," said Chet Latty, a bricklayer in Saginaw. "How can we think of channelling money into Africa and East Germany and Israel?"

As polls taken by the American Jewish Committee, among others, have shown, there is tension among Jews about Israeli policy. Glenn Nudell, a student at Towson State University near Baltimore, said he favoured reducing aid to Israel.

He said he questions the mentality that the Palestinians are evil.

"I'm Jewish, and I don't think the Palestinians are evil," Nudell said. "I think Shamir and the rightist government have got it all wrong."

Among some Jews who were interviewed, the notion that public support for Israel had declined raised what they described as the troubling spectre of anti-Semitism.

"I think we should give Israel less money because of economic problems in the United States."

Some pro-Israel groups say such views reflect a kind of nascent isolationism among Americans. There is a growing preoccupation with domestic issues at the expense of overseas concerns, driven largely by the perception of a waning external threat to U.S. security from the Soviet Union.

Charles Victor McTeer, a civil rights lawyer from Greenville, Miss., says the United States ought not to give so much support to a government that refuses to negotiate with its adversary.

"It's easy for me, as a black American, to make a leap between Israel and the Palestinians on the West Bank, and South Africa and its black majority," said McTeer. "At least the South Africans are talking."

Behind the ambivalent mood is a flood of contradictory images that come out of Israel itself these days: Israeli soldiers firing on young Palestinian protesters on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip; armed guerrillas from an extremist Palestinian faction mounting an unsuccessful speedboat assault on crowded holiday beaches; the sharp and sometimes angry political divisions within Israel itself over what should be done with the occupied territories.

"We often find ourselves having to confront simple and ultimately false analogies that attempt to compare, for example, South Africa with the Middle East, or Nelson Mandela with Yasser Arafat," said Harris.

Harris said pro-Israel groups need to stress that American strategic interests remain at risk in much of the Third World. "In a perverse way, Saddam Hussein in Iraq has reminded all of us of the kinds of serious threats that

still endure in the Middle East," he said.

Horowitz of the United Jewish Appeal said that, despite disagreements over Israeli policies among Jews and non-Jews, there is still strong support for Israel demonstrated by the willingness of Jewish donors and others to contribute money on Israel's behalf.

The most telling measure of this, he said, is the United Jewish Appeal's current giving campaign, which he said will raise more than \$1 billion, a record, that will go to help resettle Soviet Jews in Israel.

Toni Christian, a postal worker in Towson, Md., had a similar response: "I definitely think we should give Israel less money because of economic problems in the United States."

He said he questions the mentality that the Palestinians are evil.

"I'm Jewish, and I don't think the Palestinians are evil," Nudell said. "I think Shamir and the rightist government have got it all wrong."

Among some Jews who were interviewed, the notion that public support for Israel had declined raised what they described as the troubling spectre of anti-Semitism.

"I think we should give Israel less money because of economic problems in the United States."

Violent controversy grips South Korea

By Lee Su-Wan
Reuter

SEOUL — The decision by South Korea's ruling party to ram controversial bills through parliament has plunged the nation deeper into crisis, political analysts said.

They said South Koreans were dismayed by political confrontation, which boiled over into violence in parliament on Saturday, and were wondering when it would be replaced by compromise.

Two members of parliament were injured in fist fights as the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) forced through 23 bills denounced by the opposition as undemocratic in 16 years.

"The situation two months ago, which had been described as a total crisis, seems to be worsening rather than improving," the Korea Herald said.

Four opposition lawmakers resigned over the way the bills were pushed through parliament.

As the one-month parliamentary session ended on Saturday, government and opposition parties retired to work out their next moves.

"We had no other choice but to pass the bills unilaterally as the opposition, using violent means, tried to block even the introduction of urgent bills," a DLP spokesman said.

"We had the passage of the bills in a bulldozing manner, the only available manner for the ruling party?" Said an editorial in the leading daily Chosun Ilbo.

"The way the ruling party lawmakers acted was unreasonable and subject to public criticism.

Equally wrong was the way the opposition lawmakers acted to block the passage of the bills."

Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Romania — food is plenty, but so are people

By Stephen Nisbet
Reuter

BUCHAREST — There is a joke in Bucharest that food is so plentiful the pigs are queuing up to be slaughtered.

The pro-government newspaper *Adevarul* explained that 400,000 pigs and 30,000 bullocks ready for the abattoir were living on borrowed time because cold-storage places were full.

Supplies are better than in communist times, but it is still the humans who do most of the queuing.

One food store did not have enough stock to reach its monthly sales target so it diversified into clothing, filling empty shelves with a load of slippers (all large size) in an attempt to earn more.

Bucharest residents complain that shoes are usually hard to find in state stores and that many are stolen by shop assistants for sale on the black market at three times the price.

"Shop assistants are the new rich in Romania," said a hospital worker who also criticised the gypsies who dominate the makeshift markets that have sprung up in the last six months. The government may be enthusiastic about developing a market economy and dumping Stalinist-style central planning, but the

gypsies are the target for increasing police raids.

Although many people blame black marketeers for the shortages and inflation, others point to supply bottlenecks caused by central planning.

One big meat processing plant has opened its own shop so that supplies can reach the customer directly and its own workers can share in the profits.

The government says it wants to encourage these experiments.

But one Bucharest state employee said she was resisting the temptation to switch to a job in the private sector because she thought it would be politically out of favour again before long.

In the meantime, Romania is still a country of frequent queues, notably for basics like bread and meat.

One driver visiting Husi in northeast Romania had to take a town hall official along to a filling station to persuade the attendant to sell him premium grade petrol.

He was lucky to find the place open. Lines of vehicles formed outside another filling station which was closed in mid-afternoon when the early shift went home and before the late shift arrived.

Ask shoppers in Bucharest what they think of supplies, and the answer depends on what they compared it with — pre-revolu-

tionary Romania before the fall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December, or the rest of Europe now.

A fatty, greying lump of pork on a butcher's slab stirred spirited debate between two middle-aged housewives.

"Why should we feel grateful for stuff like that?" said one.

But her companion emphasised the improvement since the Ceausescu era, when heads and trotters were said to be the only parts of pigs not reserved for

export or the party elite.

One woman at a vegetable market said things were much better, but before she could elaborate she was summoned away by a friend who had been keeping her place in a tomato queue.

One commodity of which there is no shortage, is flowers, which can be bought at any hour of the day at street stalls, again often run by gypsies.

Romanians buy a few blooms for just about any reason at all,

and even in mid-revolution they liked to keep the flowers looking nice.

Coffee, however, is in such short supply that a waitress at a pavement cafe may baldly state there is none when a customer at the next table is drinking a cup of it.

The smiling waitress is not being rude — as she proves when she produces fizzy mineral water instead and says there is no charge.

Romanians say the coffee drinker may have been owed a favour as part of the mutual back-scratching process so essential to survival in a land of shortages and queues.

A walk along Bucharest's main shopping street one weekday afternoon revealed at least a dozen street stalls selling everything from foreign cigarettes to lottery tickets and pirated Bulgarian records.

The idea was to compare service with the Unirea department store — Bucharest's answer to Moscow's Gum, New York's Macy's or Harrods in London.

But at 4.15 p.m. the store was locked, all staff had gone and there was no explanation to be seen.

"They must have gone home early to watch the World Cup," said a weary shopper.

One commodity of which there is no shortage is flowers, which can be bought at any hour of the day at street stalls which are often run by gypsies.



'It is unacceptable that generations of children should be condemned to exploitation and abuse until poverty is abolished.'

Child labour: the invisible victims

MANY are mistreated, most are exploited and there are uncounted legions of them: the working children in the world of 1990.

But the ceaseless efforts to protect childhood are at long last beginning to bear some fruit, according to a new ILO report.

A growing number of both industrialised and developing countries have adopted "child labour" legislation that on the whole is progressive and reasonably close to international standards," it says. "While many improvements remain to be made, a workable legal foundation has for the most part already been laid."

Another major achievement is the "dramatic and steady decline of child labour in the mills and factories of mainstream industries," the report finds.

One reason is that this formal sector consists of enterprises easily encompassed within national labour legislation and regulations, and most effectively regulated by systems of enforcement.

In addition, the technology of modern industrial production favours the use of skilled and semi-skilled adult manpower. Finally, rising incomes in many parts of the world have diminished parents' dependence on the economic contribution of their children.

But none of these salutary developments has as yet penetrated Third World agriculture, the urban informal sector and domestic service where child labour is most widespread.

The tillers of the land are generally far less protected by labour legislation than other workers. Their young helpers even less so. Often they must "work as hard as their parents in order to earn enough for family survival," the report says.

There is also increasing concern about the accident and disease rate among child agricultural workers. Controls on hazardous insecticides and herbicides are

trated in agriculture, the urban informal sector and domestic services because they are most hidden from public scrutiny," the report says. Their existence is often kept under "a tight veil of secrecy and isolation," which conceals some of the worst abuses and exploitation of the defenceless victims.

"The essential first step in extending effective protection to these children must be the development of means to discover and teach them," the report says.

It stresses that public pressure by concerned citizens is the prime mover of child labour reforms. "Virtually all countries enjoying effective enforcement of child labour laws owe at least part of the credit to such public interest involvement."

The report describes the role of governments, the media, voluntary groups, employers and unions to combat child labour, particularly by promoting legislation and enforcement measures. It also outlines pragmatic new approaches, including the provision of education and training as well as the creation of protected income-earning opportunities for working children.

Poverty is the root cause of child labour. But it is "unacceptable that generations of children should be condemned to exploitation and abuse until poverty is abolished," the report argues. In fact, the experience in various developing countries shows that "children can be effectively protected even while they and their families are poor."

It concludes: "To tolerate child labour is neither morally justifiable nor good social policy. It is morally indefensible because it countenances an evil that is avoidable. It is poor social policy because it abandons the most fundamental purpose of all human society, which is the protection and nurturing of its young, and because it sacrifices the qualities of future human resources by squandering them prematurely."

Child workers remain concen-

Caught in the shackles of poverty

By Mitya New —
Reuter

HONG KONG — At about 10 p.m. the call came through, starting the Pak Fu Shan army camp to life. Land-Rover engines churned and stuttered, doors slammed and headlights cut through the darkness.

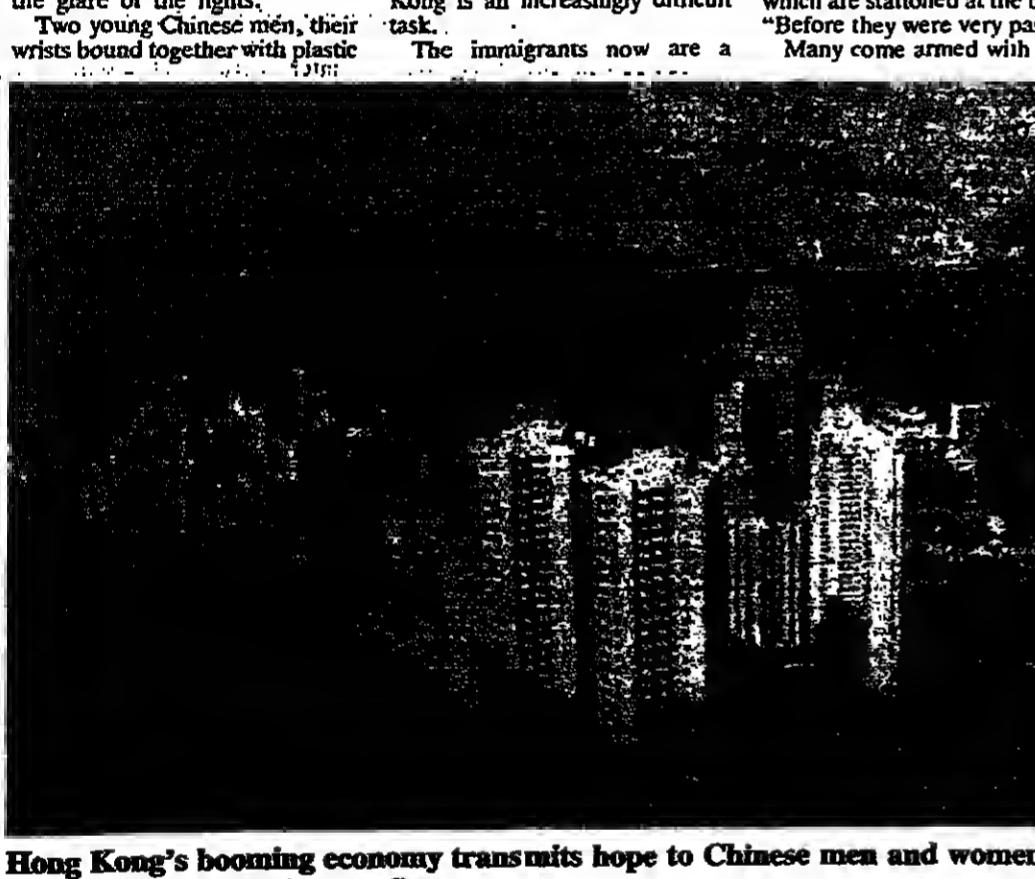
A 10-minute drive along the 5.2-metre high border fence and the army's quarry was caught in the glare of the lights.

Two young Chinese men, their wrists bound together with plastic

cord and clutching only small plastic bags with a dry change of clothes, squatted passively on the ground surrounded by sturdy Gurkha soldiers and the gawking local villagers who had first discovered the pair in the bushes.

For the British army, using 500 men equipped with the latest technology in infra-red sights, tracker dogs and helicopters, catching illegal immigrants on the border between China and Hong Kong is an increasingly difficult task.

The immigrants now are a



Hong Kong's booming economy transmits hope to Chinese men and women hoping to make quick profits.

tougher, more determined breed.

The number scaling or cutting through the fence is rising, and ever more are caught sneaking in the opposite direction — back to China after snatching a few lucrative, illegal months in the colony.

"Now they offer resistance and will certainly try and escape if they can," said Major Willie Bicket, acting Commanding Officer of the Seventh Duke of Edinburgh's own Gurkha rifles, which are stationed at the border. "Before they were very passive."

Many come armed with knives

and guns, either converted starting pistols or Chinese military issue, he said.

"A Gurkha was killed in 1989," Bicket said. "His kukri was turned on him and he was beaten to death."

The soldiers are armed only with stout staves and the short-curved Gurkha kukri knife.

Almost every day immigrants, usually men in their 20s entering in groups of two or three, are drawn across the 31 kilometres land border by the booming wealth of Hong Kong's economy.

Numbers caught on the border, where terrain ranges from steep, rough hillsides in the east to fertile agricultural land in the centre and duck ponds and mud flats in the west, have risen sharply.

The army had stopped 1,943 illegal immigrants — or IIs — by mid-June, compared with 2,726 in the whole of last year.

Arrests of IIs who made it into the colony where 11,342 by mid-June — approaching the 1989 total of 15,841.

The army estimates it catches about eight out of 10 of those attempting to cross the land border, Bicket said.

Many are smuggled into Hong Kong hidden in the 12,000 vehicles that cross daily at the main Man Kam to checkpoint, police sources said. Another popular way is the high-speed powerboats used for smuggling, which easily outrun marine police craft, the source said.

In May 1988, Hong Kong began prosecuting and jailing illegal immigrants found working in the land to counter a swelling wave of entries. Previously, they were simply handed back.

Watched by giggling village children, the two newest captives were helped into the army Land-Rover to join the truck-load that the Hong Kong police escort over the Man Kam to border bridge at 3 p.m. every day.

The tougher stance saw border arrests drop in 1988 compared with 1987.

Military officers were at something of a loss to explain this year's rise in captures over last year.

"The numbers this year are twice those the same time last year, so perhaps that suggests this is the result of June 4 (Beijing's military crackdown on pro-democracy protests last year)," Bicket said.

The military does not screen the detainees for political refugees. After a cursory interrogation about their starting point in China and any companions, the captives are handed over to the police who process any requests for political asylum.

Over the last two years, some have begun returning along the same illegal route back into China.

"An increasing number go back, after earning money at construction sites, after three to four months," Bicket said.

Some illegal immigrants enter to carry out contract killings or robberies and return after the job, he said.

One wanted Hong Kong man even travelled legally to China to establish an alibi, returned illegally to the colony to commit a robbery before skipping back across the border and then travelling back legally from China, a police source said.

The tillers of the land are generally far less protected by labour legislation than other workers. Their young helpers even less so. Often they must "work as hard as their parents in order to earn enough for family survival," the report says.

There is also increasing concern about the accident and disease rate among child agricultural workers. Controls on hazardous insecticides and herbicides are

being introduced in agriculture, the urban informal sector and domestic services because they are most hidden from public scrutiny," the report says. Their existence is often kept under "a tight veil of secrecy and isolation," which conceals some of the worst abuses and exploitation of the defenceless victims.

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Child workers remain concen-

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Chiappucci still leads after 15th stage in Tour de France

REVEL, France (AP) — Claudio Chiappucci added three seconds to his slim lead in the Tour de France Monday, as the leaders rode a conservative 15th stage and allowed France's Charles Mottet to win the leg by nearly five minutes.

Greg Lemond, Eric Breukink and Pedro Delgado finished the relatively flat 170-kilometre leg from Millau to revel just behind Chiappucci, leaving the top of the standings virtually unchanged.

The overall leader improved his margin to 1:52 over Breukink, 2:24 over Lemond and 4:29 over Delgado with six stages remaining.

Mottet finished the stage in 4 hours, 13 minutes, 56 seconds, averaging a fast 40 kilometres-per-hour.

Temperatures cooled slightly with a gentle breeze but temperatures were still close to 27 degrees Celsius (80 Fahrenheit).



Chiappucci in action during the 12th stage of the Tour de France

Soviets losing world chess domination

MANILA (R) — The Soviet Union appears to be losing its domination of world chess after 16 days of gruelling competition in Manila to decide who will challenge for the world title in 1991.

While Soviet players won top honours in the Manila World Interzonal Tournament, six of the eleven qualifiers for the 1991 candidates matches were non-Soviets.

"There's bigger representation of non-Soviet players now," said World Chess Federation (FIDE) President Florencio Campomanes.

Soviet grandmaster Boris Gelfand, 22, and compatriot Vassily Ivanchuk tied for first place after the final round with nine points. Gelfand won the tie-break to win the 64-man, Swiss-style competition that ended Saturday.

Britain's Nigel Short and India's Viswanathan Anand, who is only the second Asian to qualify for the candidates round, tied for third place at 8.5 points.

The other non-Soviet qualifiers were Switzerland's Viktor

Korchnoi, Gyula Sax of Hungary, Robert Huelner of West Germany and Yugoslav Predrag Nikolic. The other Soviet qualifiers were Alexei Dreev and Sergei Dolmatov.

Jan Timman of the Netherlands and Jonathan Speelman of Britain, having qualified earlier, did not play in Manila.

The candidates round will decide who will challenge world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union in the 1993 world championship.

Campomanes believes the traditional Soviet system of developing chess players is disintegrating with the restructuring of sports amid political changes in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet system involves identifying talented players at a very early age and providing state subsidies for the best.

With the recent changes in the Soviet Union, the previous state hold on sports seems to be loosening, chess analysts in Manila said.

"They are losing total authority," Campomanes said.

The new atmosphere has produced more genuine competition. In the past, Western players accused Soviets of orchestrating games, pitting one Soviet against another to ensure the stronger player would advance.

"In the Manila tournament, some of the Soviet players were killing each other," a Filipino chess analyst said, citing Ivanchuk's defeat of Alexander Kharlamov in the 12th round and Gelfand's trouncing of Jaan Eneveld in the 13th round.

"For the first time, in a tournament of the highest level, we find situations which did not generate the expected results," Campomanes said.

The tournament produced some major upsets, notably the failure of Soviet champion Rafael Vaganian to qualify and the defeat of the American challenge provided by Yasser Seirawan and Soviet defector Gata Kamsky.

Vaganian fell to France's Joel Lautier and Britain's Michael Adams and dropped out of the running in the early stage.

MOTOR RACING

Ferrari revival overshadowed by Mansell

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — They did not know whether to dance or mourn in the Ferrari garages at Silverstone Sunday night when the Italian team's hour of triumph was unexpectedly interrupted by news of Nigel Mansell's retirement.

Alain Prost's British Grand Prix victory, the Frenchman's third in succession for Ferrari and record 43rd of his career, had hoisted him to the top of the standings in the World Drivers' Championship at the half-way point in the season.

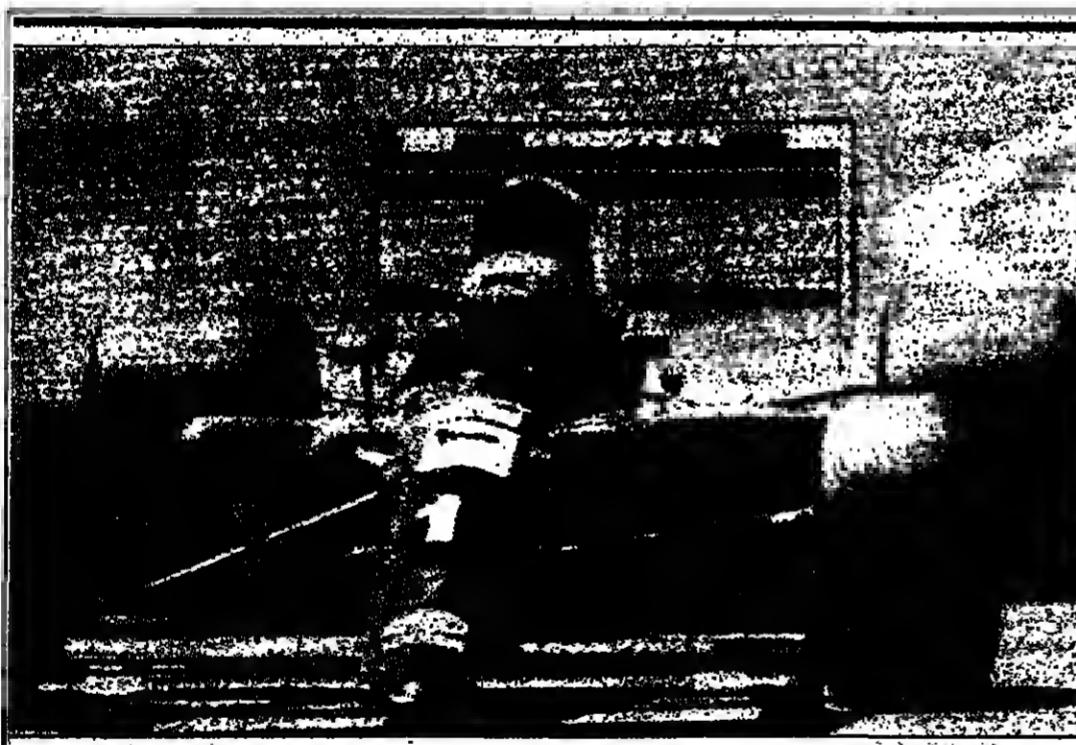
Prost now has 41 points while his bitter rival Brazilian Ayrton Senna, driving a McLaren, has 39.

The defending world champion's win also moved the Maranello-based team to within 10 points of their great rivals McLaren in the constructors' standings.

But the stirring evidence of Ferrari's re-emergence as the top team in formula one was overshadowed by Britain's Mansell, who had started in pole position for the second successive week for Ferrari, said he was quitting at the end of the year.

Mansell's team mates, friends and rivals joined together in hoping he would reconsider his retirement.

But after considering re-



jecting offers believed to be worth more than \$10 million to race for one more year, it seems certain Mansell will make the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide on Nov. 4 his last.

The 36-year-old Briton, a win-

ner of 15 of his 141 Grands Prix, said he has chosen to put his wife Rosanne and three children first for the first time in his life.

"I look forward to another eight races and I can say that right at this minute Adelaide will be my last race," said Mansell.

In the aftermath of the announcement and Prost's triumph, when a hugely disappointed Mansell had been forced to retire with gearbox failure, there was a buzz of excitement and speculation. Several new questions arose.

Furthermore, Alesi would be prepared to accept number two status behind Prost and so solve for Ferrari their difficulties in retaining both Prost and Mansell in the same stable.

But Ferrari's courtship of Senna could yet turn serious and his arrival would almost certainly mean Prost's exit.

Senna has yet to agree a new deal with McLaren for next year and has been connected with Ferrari for several weeks.

On Sunday night, he was seen talking to Ferrari team manager Cesare Fiorio after the race.

With a new modified but more powerful version of their V-12 engine — currently only used in qualifying — due to be raced shortly, Ferrari look set to stay on top unless McLaren revise their schedule and introduce earlier and thrilling second-half of the season is in prospect.



Nigel Mansell

Italians, Germans and Soviets top world Fencing Championships

LYON, France (AP) — Andrea Borella won a silver medal in the men's foil and Angela Mazzoni a silver in the men's epee, leading the Italian team to a dominating 10 medals in the World Fencing Championships, including golds in men's team epee and foil and women's foil.

The Italian men placed in each of the individual and team disciplines while the women only missed in the individual epee in the championships, which ended Sunday.

The West Germans match Italy's gold medal haul, led by 28-year-old Thomas Gerau victory in the men's epee competition

and Anja Fitchel's title in the women's foil. The Germans won the other gold, one of four medals overall, in the women's team epee.

"We knew we could get good results in this world championship," said Italian coach Attilio Fini. "But it has also helped us to see the youngest members of the team winning silver and bronze medals."

"Now that we know how good the young fencers are doing, the older ones in the team must work very hard to keep up," Fini said.

The Soviet Union won seven medals overall, one gold — in men's team saber, two silvers and

four bronze.

"We wanted five medals to be satisfied with this year's world championship," said Egon Beck, the head West German coach.

"We can't pretend to say that everything is easy for us to win, because the Soviet Union and Italy are very strong."

"We will have a team of 10 or 11 fencers in each event ready to compete for the 1992 Olympics. They are working very hard in Germany."

Tamara Chappe of Cuba broke into the European domination by becoming the first woman of her country to win a world title in winning the epee event.

McEnroe returns to courts again

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McEnroe begins his latest, and what he says may be his most critical, comeback attempt when the Sovran Bank Classic opens.

Andre Agassi is the top seed in the \$415,800 event, the first in the U.S. summer hard-court season leading to next month's U.S. Open.

McEnroe, a former No. 1-ranked player, has slipped to 12th in the ranking and is fighting at 31 to recover some of his vast luster.

He's seeded third in Washington.

"If I take a couple of steps in the wrong direction, in my opinion, I'll be out of tennis in six months," McEnroe said after his first-round loss at Wimbledon last month.

Also leading the 56-player field are No. 6 Brad Gilbert — seeded second — defending champ Tim Mayotte and Michael Chang, Aaron Krickstein and Jimmy Connors both withdrew due to injury.

McEnroe is trying to keep up the 1990 momentum that was highlighted by his runner-up in the French Open, his best showing in a Grand Slam event.

McEnroe Sunday night he has agreed to financial settlement in his breach of contract suit naming promoter Don King, according to a published report.

"I am totally relieved in one sense, and that is that I am free of Don King," Douglas told the Columbus Dispatch. He spoke by telephone from New York, where the U.S. District Court trial was to have entered its third week Monday.

"On the other hand, I would just like to say Don did an awful lot of lying on the witness stand," Douglas said. "I got to say my piece briefly (for 35 minutes) Friday, but I didn't get to get totally into it."

"I was prepared to expose this man for what he is."

Instead, the two sides — Douglas' included Las Vegas hotel-casino owner Steve Wynn — de-

cided Sunday to settle out of court. Attempts to reach King early Monday were fruitless.

Terms were not disclosed, but it is believed King and Atlantic City, New Jersey, hotel-casino owner Donald Trump, who claimed to have contractual rights through King for Douglas' fight with top contender Evander Holyfield, are to be paid a total of \$7 million.

In return, King won't have anything to do with the Douglas-Holyfield fight, tentatively set for Sept. 21 at Wynn's The Mirage hotel-casino. King will be the promoter of note for Douglas' rematch with former champion Mike Tyson that will follow next year at The Mirage, but he will have no tie with Douglas.

"A settlement by no means

means admission of guilt, certainly not in this case," Douglas said. "It's just a thing of getting on with life and getting all of this behind us."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Yachting grand prix begins in Scotland

LONDON (AP) — An international formula one class world yachting grand prix will begin in Scotland in August next year before sweeping across the globe with \$1 million prize money at stake, organisers said Monday. The first series of races, open only to identical high-tech yachts, will be held in the Firth of Clyde near Glasgow, said John Mitchell, director of Challenge Group, which is organising the British leg. Although other venues and dates are yet to be finalised, the grand prix will swing through Europe in September 1991, the United States the following month, Japan in November and will finish in Australia in January 1992. The British organisers said it was hoped Long Beach, California, would be the U.S. venue. "The series has everything — excitement, action and speed," Mitchell said. "For the first time, identical yachts with the latest high-tech specifications, world-class skippers and race-honed crews will battle it out on the ocean of the world to decide the ultimate champion."

Kenya bound for Goodwill Games

NAIROBI (R) — Four Olympic gold medallists are in a nine-strong Kenyan team for the Goodwill Games. The squad, announced by the Kenya Amateur Athletic Association, includes Paul Ereng (800 metres), Peter Rono (1,500 metres), Julius Karukui (3,000 metres steeplechase) and John Ngugi (5,000 metres). Also named is Peter Koech, silver medallist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and 3,000 metres steeplechase world record holder. The goodwill games open in Seattle Friday and last until Aug. 5.

Cameroun's Makanaky signs for Malaga

MADRID (R) — Cameroun World Cup midfielder Cyrille Makanaky has signed a three-year contract with Malaga in the Spanish second division, a club spokesman said Monday. He gave no details of the cost of the transfer of 25-year-old Makanaky from French second division side Toulon to Malaga, relegated from the first division last season. Makanaky was one of the star players in the Cameroun team which upset holders Argentina in the opening match of the World Cup finals. They later became the first African side to reach the quarter-finals.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH
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LOOK FOR A MIRACLE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 9 7 5 3

♦ A K Q 6 2

♦ Q 3 6

♦ Q 6

WEST
♦ Q J 10

♦ J 9 4

♦ K J 8 4

♦ K 10 7

EAST
♦ 8

♦ 10 8 7 3

♦ 10 9 6

♦ J 9 5 4 2

SOUTH
♦ A K 6 4 2

♦ 5

♦ A 8 3

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Don't abandon the ship just because the chances of avoiding a wreck are one in a hundred. You never know — every long shot has its day!

The bidding was short and rather aggressive. However, this hand is

good for declarer to cash the

ace of diamonds and ruff the

diamonds in dummy and 12

tricks were in the bag.

lose. West's trump lead made it look like the best chance for the con-

trac—a 2-2 spade break—would gang agley, and so it proved when East discarded a club on the second round of trumps. After considerable thought, declarer found a combination of cards that would allow the *sham to sail safely into port*. It would not take much—West had to hold exactly three hearts and both minor-suit kings!

Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts, sluffing a diamond from hand, then ruffed a heart. Next, he threw West in with a trump.

The first lucky break occurred when West did not turn up with the outstanding heart as a safe exit. When West exited with a diamond (a club would have been no better), declarer played the queen from dummy and muffed a silent prayer. All was well. The queen of diamonds held, providing declarer with the entry to cash the table's two good hearts for two club discards from hand. All that remained was to cash the ace of diamonds and ruff the diamond loser in dummy and 12 tricks were in the bag.

THE Daily Crossword

by Virginia Yates



<h2

Australia destines sheep to bullets

CANBERRA (R) — Millions of Australian sheep will have to be shot because of a drop in demand for wool, loss of meat markets and lack of rain, farmers and officials say.

The slaughter of several million animals is being planned to reduce Australia's sheep population, estimated officially at 170 million, and unofficially at 190 million.

Farmers have said that 10 per cent of the flock might have to be killed.

"That's an exaggeration. There aren't 19 million bullets in Australia," said David Coombes, a spokesman for the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation. Pits are being dug to receive the carcasses of one million sheep in Western Australia where an unusually dry spell has left the state's 39 million sheep with very little grass.

A recent sale of 20,000 mostly

old sheep there fetched 10 to 80 cents (eight to 64 U.S. cents) an animal. There were no bids for 2,000 animals, which are expected to be shot.

"Only sheep of very good quality are worth bringing to market," said Glen Thompson, a director of the West Australian Farmers Federation.

"Poor demand for wool and mutton, dry weather and loss of live sheep markets in the Middle East — these factors have left humane killing the only option," he said by telephone.

"It costs farmers 10 dollars (\$9.50) for each sheep to be processed by an abattoir. We can't give it (meat) away as aid because poor countries don't have proper refrigeration and the meat goes off."

Other states have had better weather but Coombes said it was inevitable farmers elsewhere would call their flocks.

Due to the slump in demand Australia cut the floor price of wool, rising high 18 months ago, from 870 cents (\$80 U.S. cents) to 700 cents (\$40 U.S. cents) a kilogramme (2.2 lbs) from July 1 for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"It seems there really isn't any alternative but the bullet, although we believe the industry must urgently explore alternatives," said Hugh Wirth, president of Australia's Royal Society

for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

stockpile of three million bales. Saudi Arabia, which traditionally takes half the seven million live sheep Australia sends annually to the Middle East, has been rejecting sheep on the grounds of age and disease.

Farming organisations around Australia are arranging for local councils to dig pits, where sheep will be taken to be shot in the head by department of agriculture officials. Most farmers can't bear to shoot their own sheep.

Australia is returning to concentrating on the quality market for lamb and producing younger more tender mutton. But for the older sheep the prospects are grim.

"The index mostly reflects the continuing increase in the housing prices, balanced by a seasonal decrease in the prices of vegetables and fruits," Rahamim Uzana, head of the bureau's prices division, said on Israel Army Radio.

Housing prices have been pushed up by a shortage caused by an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, expected to reach up to 150,000 this year.

"Every month, the increase in housing prices is almost double the rate of inflation," said Yisrael Kessar, head of Histadrut, Israel's trade union federation. "We have proposed to put housing prices under (government) control and create a lot of housing starts."

Kessar also attacked the government for approving an emergency plan to import 3,000 prefabricated houses instead of ordering them in Israel and thus easing unemployment.

Dov Lautmann, head of the manufacturers' association, warned in a statement that the Israeli economy may face an "earthquake" unless the government deals with the country's unemployment rate of more than nine per cent.

The operations of Al Mashrek in Jordan came under CBJ supervision in October 1989, nine months after serious liquidity problems hit its headquarters in Beirut and the Lebanese central bank stepped in to bail it out. Since then, many branches of the bank outside Lebanon have been closed down, but the Jordanian branches continued functioning without disruption under supervision from the CBJ.

Proposals being contemplated call for a new company to be set up with a JD 5 million paid-up capital and a reserve of JD 5 million to

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Tunisia to slaughter 750,000 chickens

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian government, to save prices from collapsing on the local market, has decided to slaughter 750,000 chickens ordered by an Algerian who cancelled the deal, official sources have said. Agriculture Minister Nouri Zorgati told a delegation of worried chicken farmers that the government would kill the chickens and put them in cold storage, they said. The farmers gave the government an ultimatum to find a solution to the crisis within a week. Some had threatened to release thousands of chickens in the streets of Tunis. An Algerian businessman, who was not named, had ordered a total of 3.5 million broilers and Tunisian farmers had stepped up production to meet the demand, chicken farming sources said. They gave no explanation for the cancellation of the order.

Hungary raises petrol, spirit prices

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary has increased consumption taxes on fuel, cigarettes and liquor by at least 20 per cent in what newspapers termed the first post-communist price rises. Dubbed the "first democratic price hikes" by the Hungarian media, they were aimed at cutting Hungary's budget deficit which is running ahead of a limit set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The budget deficit is 21.5 billion forints (\$331 million), well above a 10 billion forint (\$154 million) limit set as one precondition for IMF support. Petrol prices went up by an average 20 per cent but to symbolise growing environmental concerns the unleaded kind is no longer the most expensive type of fuel. Motorists will now pay 37.50 forints (58 cents) for a litre of 98 octane petrol compared with 37 forints (57 cents) for unleaded.

Iran signs deals with Muslim Soviets

NICOSIA (R) — Islamic Iran has signed deals with four Muslim-populated Soviet republics to trade cars, textiles and other goods, the Iranian news agency IRNA has said. The barter accords were signed by a delegation from Iran's northeastern Khorassan province which visited Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan recently. IRNA quoted the head of the delegation, Mohammad Hassan Solhdoust, as saying the agreements included exchange of construction materials, cars and spare parts, textiles and machinery for food industries.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, July 16, 1990		Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	119.3	120.0	
		Japanese yen (for 100)	447.6	450.3	
664.0	668.0	Dutch guilder	355.0	357.1	
1186.7	1193.8	Swedish krona	110.6	111.3	
402.2	402.6	Italian lira (for 100)	54.7	55.0	
471.1	473.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	194.9	196.1	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1,7960.70	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1,1595/1605	1,6575/80	Deutschmarks
1,8680/90	1,4105/15	1,8680/90	Dutch guilders
34.08/13	5,5510/60	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
1213/1214	148.20/30	French francs	French francs
5,9925/75	5,3425/75	Italian lire	Italian lire
6,3000/55	362.00/40	Japanese yen	Japanese yen
		Swedish kronas	Swedish kronas
		Norwegian crowns	Norwegian crowns
		Danish crowns	Danish crowns
		U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars

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DEADLY PURSUIT

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Dureld Lahham / Madeline Tabar

KAFROUN

Performances: 9:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Shirley MacLaine in
MADAME SOUSATZKA

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Housing costs push up inflation in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's consumer price index rose 0.7 per cent in June, mostly due to a rapid increase in housing costs, the government has announced.

The rise in the index, which measures price changes in a fixed market basket of goods and services, was much less than the 1.6 per cent increase in May.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said that last month, a 2.9 per cent rise in housing costs was accountable for most of the overall index's rise.

"The index mostly reflects the

Move prompted by external reasons

Jordanians discuss formula to reshape Al Mashrek Bank

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Moves are underway to Jordanise the ownership of the branches of Lebanon's Al Mashrek Bank in the Kingdom, and banking circles expect the process to be completed in two months' time.

"The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has already given the green signal for transforming Al Mashrek into a Jordanian bank," said a well-informed banking source. "Discussions over how to work out a formula for the process are continuing."

Al Mashrek, despite its relatively small size of operations in the Kingdom and reports of trouble at its headquarters, enjoys a good reputation as a "strong bank" in Jordan. The move to Jordanise it was prompted "by external reasons related to the problems at its Lebanon headquarters, and had very little to do with its management or operations in Jordan," according to a leading banking figure, who is involved in the negotiations with the CBJ along with a group of companies and individuals, including many customers of the bank.

Housing prices have been pushed up by a shortage caused by an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, expected to reach up to 150,000 this year.

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Proposals being contemplated call for a new company to be set up with a JD 5 million paid-up capital and a reserve of JD 5 million to

out any disruption is an indication of its strength," he said. "Now, its clients know that the bank's operations in Jordan are strong and they would not lose their money."

The main element in the expected change of ownership of the bank's branches in Jordan is "how to bring about a total and complete formal separation from its mother bank in Lebanon," said another businessman involved in the ongoing negotiations on the future of the bank.

"The process has to be carried out under international banking codes and ethics, and the central bank has to bear the major burden of this responsibility," the businessman added, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Although not warranted by local developments, the expected change at Al Mashrek is the latest in a series of measures undertaken by the CBJ to streamline banking in Jordan after the upheavals in the industry following the dramatic take-over by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank in August 1989.

The committee has now ordered the liquidation of Petra Bank; a possible merger between the Jordan Gulf Bank with the Syrian Jordanian Bank is in the offing, and a new investment and export promotion bank will be set up after the affairs of Petra Bank are wound up.

To crown its moves, the CBJ has also forwarded to the government a set of draft laws to govern all banking activities in the Kingdom. Very little detail of the draft legislation is available but a senior banker expected the laws to be aimed at "a much-needed sweeping overhaul of the entire banking system in the country."

According to an informed source, the proposed legislation includes provisions for closer monitoring and scrutiny of banking operations, clearing the way for CBJ intervention before "public interests are harmed as was the case with Petra Bank."

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Tamil rebels overrun army camp

Sri Lankan forces begin new offensive

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan security forces have launched a fresh offensive in the north against Tamil guerrillas fighting for an independent state, a minister said Monday.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the new drive began at the weekend after security forces virtually completed operations against rebels in the eastern sector, where only mopping up remains.

Wijeratne said a senior military officer with experience in battles against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, had been appointed overall commander of the offensive in the north.

Kobbekaduwa was put in charge of anti-guerrilla operations in the east soon after the Tigers, who are fighting to form a separate state for the Tamil minority, began their latest wave of strikes against military bases and police stations on June 11.

Wijeratne said some of the troops who fought with Kobbekaduwa in the east had been sent to reinforce detachments in the north, where the Tigers are stronger and mounting stiffer resistance.

He said the focus of the fresh offensive was in the Vavuniya,

the four-day battle for Kokavil after their commander decided to fight rather than carry out a pre-planned withdrawal.

"That's bravery, but you must live to fight another day," he told a news conference.

A government statement said 37 Tigers were also killed at Kokavil. In a statement issued from their London office, the Tigers said 46 soldiers and 18 Tigers, including six women, were killed in the battle.

Some of the wounded soldiers were thrown by women Tigers into a fire started when a rebel mortar ignited a fuel dump in the camp, Ranjanatunga said. There was no independent confirmation of this.

Wijeratne said security forces, after a fierce battle, recaptured a police station at Mankulam in the north and secured the perimeters of an army camp there.

He said the government had information the Tigers had killed 60 Muslims Friday after ambushing three lorries and two buses in which they were travelling in eastern Batticaloa. Some of the Muslims were returning home after a pilgrimage to Mecca.

The minister said the other Muslims were still being held by the Tigers, who were demanding a ransom for their release.

The new drive was launched hours after the Tigers overran an army camp guarding a state television relay station in Kokavil in the north.

Wijeratne said 48 of the 50 soldiers in the unit were killed in

U.K. to probe leak of confidential memo

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's office launched a probe Monday into the leak of a confidential, high-level memorandum which listed German national characteristics as including "aggressiveness and bullying."

A report of the document was published by a Sunday newspaper only hours after Trade Secretary Nicholas Ridley resigned from the cabinet for causing an uproar with a string of fiercely anti-German comments in a magazine interview.

The memorandum, drawn up

by Thatcher foreign policy adviser Charles Powell, summarised a seminar held in March at the prime minister's country residence to brief her on how to deal with a united Germany.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and a group of American and British academics.

It was held the weekend before Thatcher met West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in London and delivered a speech on Anglo-German relations.

The memorandum said German characteristics included

"angst, aggressiveness, bullying, egotism, inferiority complex, sentimentiality."

It added that Germans were insensitive in their feelings towards others, obsessed with themselves, wanted to be liked and inclined to self-pity. But its main conclusion advised Thatcher to "be nice to the Germans."

Officials said the memorandum was highly restricted and circulated to only a few people in government departments, mainly the Foreign and Defence Ministries.

While tensions have eased

since April, when both sides moved troops into forward positions, diplomats said they see little willingness to compromise by either government, both of which are under strong domestic pressure to stay tough on the issue.

Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, whose minority government depends in part on conservative Hindu fundamentalists, cannot afford to seem weak, political analysts said.

His government continues to

charge Pakistan with supporting

terrorism in Kashmir, and on July 5 declared much of the state a "disturbed area."

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, meanwhile, has held firm on Kashmir in hopes of bolstering flagging domestic confidence in her leadership abilities, political observers added.

"The Kashmir issue gets a very

strong gut reaction from Pakistanis," said Mushahid Hussain, a former journalist who now re-

searches public opinion.

Guns were fired from speeding

cars, and local press reports said

one group of people was fired upon as they gathered near the

Bhittai Hospital in central Hyderabad hoping for news of the

earlier victims.

There was no immediate word

on casualties from the gunfights.

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed outrage over a rash of

bomb blasts Sunday which killed some 40 people in Sind province, where ethnic violence has put in question her government's ability to maintain order.

Bhutto, in Bahrain on the last

leg of a visit to five Muslim

countries, condemned the "gruesome act of sabotage" and called on authorities to treat those re-

sponsible "with an iron hand,"

the Pakistani News Agency (APP) said Monday.

She asked for a complete re-

port on the incident when she returns to Islamabad Monday afternoon.

Political analysts said the vi-

olence, the first serious ethnic

bloodshed in the troubled pro-

vince of Sind in almost a month,

will increase pressure on Bhutto

to allow the army greater leeway

in enforcing order.

"It only strengthens the argu-

ment that if the military is to play

a role, it should have greater

antibody," said Ijaz Gilani,

director of the Pakistan Institute

of Public Opinion.

No one has claimed responsibil-

ity for the blasts, which coincided with a protest strike called

by a nationalist Sindhi group.

Five separate blasts ripped

through crowded areas in the city

of Hyderabad within about 30

minutes Sunday, killing at least 23

people and injuring more than 100.

Another bomb exploded in a

moving railway carriage about 25

kilometres north of Hyderabad,

the Pakistani News Agency (APP)

said Monday.

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ISLAMABAD (R) — Guerrillas

medics trained in China ran field hospitals, dressing

wounds and amputating limbs.

As the guerrillas advance, the

world seeks a political solution

and worries that the Khmer

Rouge, whose bloody regime was

overthrown by a Vietnamese inva-

sion in December 1978, may re-

gain power. More than a million

Cambodians were killed or

died of starvation during 3½ years

of Khmer Rouge rule.

Khmer Rouge commanders ex-

pressed confidence they would

capture Phnom Penh, the

Cambodian capital. They used

maps to illustrate encirclement

from the north, south and west —

similar to the strategy in 1975,

when the Khmer Rouge defeated

the U.S.-backed government of

President Lon Nol.

The trip, with an escort of

guerrillas loyal to Prince Nor-

odom Sihanouk, leader of the

coalition, began on the Thai bor-

der and covered three northern

provinces. Included was a 50-

kilometre stretch of National

Highway 6, a main government

lifeline to ontying provinces,

now in guerrilla hands.

It provided the first indepen-

dent confirmation of claims by

the guerrillas of advances deep

inside the country.

Thousands of Sihanouk's guer-

illas were seen lounging in vil-

Few have high hopes for talks on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (R) — India and Pakistan open talks this week aimed at soothing fears of another war over Kashmir, but diplomats say both sides appear to be digging in their heels on the central issues of the dispute.

Many more students were thought to be buried in the rubble of the five-storey college building in Cabanatuan, 90 kilometres north of Manila, which was at the epicentre of the quake.

Indian Foreign Secretary Muhammed Dabir will arrive Tuesday and meet his Pakistani counterpart Tanvir Ahmad Khan on July 18 and 19 for talks.

The meeting will have no specific agenda, but officials in Islamabad say the Muslim revolt in Indian-held Kashmir will be the principal issue on the table.

"One shouldn't be looking for anything substantial out of the talks," one Western diplomat said. "We might see movement on some subsidiary issues, such as troop deployment or contacts between the two sides."

The fragile relationship between Pakistan and India has been plunged into crisis this year as the two sides trade accusations over Kashmir, where Muslim militants have stepped up a bloody guerrilla campaign to end Indian rule.

"This year's violence has killed more than 700 people and New Delhi this month gave police and army troops in the area new powers, including shoot-to-kill orders.

The two countries have fought two wars over Kashmir since their independence from Britain in 1947. That year, their first war left one-third of Kashmir under Pakistani control, and the state remains divided along a heavily patrolled border.

New Delhi has accused Pakistan of whipping up the revolt by arming and training the militants on its side of the border, a charge Pakistan denies.

Islamabad in turn has accused India of renegeing on an agreement to allow Kashmir's predominantly Muslim inhabitants to choose in a U.N.-mandated plebiscite whether to join Hindu-majority India or Islamic Pakistan.

While tensions have eased

since April, when both sides moved troops into forward positions, diplomats said they see little willingness to compromise by either government, both of which are under strong domestic pressure to stay tough on the issue.

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ISLAMABAD (R) — Doctors in the city, the second

largest in Sind, said the major

hospital was so crowded with

wounded that some operations had to be conducted in the halls.